

ACADEMICS, NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES

POLICY: 4650 Academic Freedom; Faculty

Page 1 of 1

BOARD POLICY

The portion of the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, formulated by the Association of American Colleges and the American Association of University Professors and paraphrased below, is endorsed by the Board.

1. A teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his or her other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. A teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his or her subject, but he or she should be careful not to introduce into his or her teaching controversial matter which has no relation to his subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.
3. The college or university teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he or she speaks or writes as a citizen, he or she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but a teacher's special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educational officer, the teacher should remember that the public may judge his or her profession and his or her institution by his or her utterances. Hence, a teacher should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that he or she is not an institutional spokesman.

The Board places particular emphasis on paragraphs 2 and 3 of the above statement relating to the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, which members of the profession and professional organizations associate with this important concept of American life.

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